

MIKE THOMPSON

2009 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dear Friends,

As 2009 draws to a close, I am writing to give you an update on progress we've made this year in Congress. As your Congressman, it is my job to advance our local priorities and help you and your family, friends, and our neighbors with matters involving federal agencies.



Because the First Congressional District is so large, we have four district offices to serve the needs of our communities. I've included a guide to the services my office can help you with. Whether it's a legislative issue or a problem you're having with a federal agency, my staff and I are here to help. It is an honor to serve you in Congress and to offer you the best service we possibly can. I depend on your comments and suggestions to keep me informed about important issues, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Mike Thompson

House Passes Health Care Reform Bill – Could Cut Deficit

On November 7th, the House passed bipartisan health care reform legislation that would provide access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans – while cutting the deficit an estimated \$30 billion. The bill would slow the growth of out-of-control health care costs; introduce competition into the health care marketplace to keep coverage affordable; and protect consumers' choices of doctors and health plans.

The Senate is working on their version of the bill, and then the House and Senate will have to combine their proposals and vote one more time. Please know there's much more work to be done on health care reform, and we will keep working on making our health care system better even after this bill is signed into law.

Federal Stimulus Funds Boost Our Local Economy

Families across our district are struggling to make ends meet and are worried about finding or keeping a good job. We are going through tough economic times, and we've taken steps in Washington to help families. At the beginning of this year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law. This comprehensive economic recovery package was designed to jumpstart the economy, provide tax benefits for families and small businesses, and invest in infrastructure and innovation. While we are still suffering from record high unemployment, most experts agree that the recovery package has prevented our economy from slipping into a depression. And the full impact of the Recovery Act won't be felt until all of the projects are funded. You can see where the funding is going in our district on my website, www.mikethompson.house.gov.



One of the most important investments made by the Recovery Act is the investment in education. In order to build a strong future, we need to educate the leaders of tomorrow, and make sure our country will always be at the cutting edge of innovation. It's estimated that the Recovery Act saved 80,363 teaching jobs in California, and will make sure that even in these tough budget times, our children's education is still a top priority.

The recovery package also includes significant investments in America's information technology infrastructure (including broadband, health information technology, and a smarter energy grid) to help keep our country competitive. While these funds do not ease the worry of families struggling to pay their bills, they are a step towards a brighter future.

2009 Legislative Highlights

Below is a partial list of legislation introduced by Congressman Mike Thompson during 2009:

PASSED INTO LAW

- H.R.1831 will aid in the protection of thousands of acres of our nation's shrinking agricultural lands and open space. The bill provides tax incentives for landowners who agree to protect their land from development. It was passed into law as part of a larger package of tax breaks passed by the House December 9, 2009.
- H.R. 546 will allow state and local governments to help homeowners and businesses more easily finance the purchase of solar systems and provide for new qualified energy conservation bonds to finance state and local government efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also provides grants to incentivize businesses to invest in renewable technology and create good U.S. based manufacturing jobs.

INTRODUCED

- H.R. 2068 would significantly increase the availability of telemedicine for all Americans. Currently about 80% of Americans do not have access to telemedicine facilities because of restrictions that limit funding for these types of facilities to rural areas. These provisions were included in the House-passed health care bill.
- The STORAGE Act, H.R.4210, would provide a tax credit to individuals and businesses when they purchase energy storage systems. Energy storage systems allow consumers to keep excess energy generated by things like solar panels or wind turbines when energy is in low demand and then use it during peak demand.
- The Family Farm Preservation Act, H.R. 3524, would allow family farmers to continue to farm their land and not be put out of business by extremely high estate taxes.

**This is a small selection of the bills authored by Congressman Thompson.
To learn more, visit mikethompson.house.gov.*

2009 Legislation Helps Working Families



Congressman Thompson presents a certificate to Mendocino High School student Jisu Youn for participation in the 2009 Congressional Art Competition.

STUDENT AID MAKES COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

Congress also enacted the bipartisan Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) to expand access to an affordable college education for more American students, while saving taxpayers \$87 billion. SAFRA will change the way the student loan system functions by cutting inefficiency and waste and redesigning this program. The resulting savings will go back into the student loan program, expanding access to government grant and loan assistance. In our district alone, the number of students getting Pell Grants will nearly double as a result of this legislation.

MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE REDUCES FORECLOSURES

One family loses their home every 13 seconds in America. This is unacceptable. We need to make sure that families are able to stay in their homes and communities are able to avoid the problems that come with foreclosures. When a family loses their house, it is devastating to them and their children. And multiple home foreclosures impact neighbors by driving down property values and making neighborhoods less safe. We've made some progress slowing down the rash of foreclosures affecting too many homeowners, but we need to do a lot more to make sure that people are treated fairly by their lenders. If you or someone you know needs assistance with home loans, the number to call is 1-888-995-HOPE (4673).



700,000 UNINSURED CALIFORNIA CHILDREN GAIN HEALTH COVERAGE



Earlier this year President Barack Obama signed legislation into law that will provide health care to 11 million children from working families. As a major proponent of the legislation, I attended the President's signing ceremony at the White House. The State Children's Health Insurance Program is an extraordinary success – over 1.5 million children in California get their health care through this program. By signing this bipartisan bill into law, almost 700,000 uninsured children in California and 4 million uninsured children across the country will now have health care.



**CONGRESSMAN
MIKE THOMPSON**

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

231 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3311
Fax: (202) 225-4335

NAPA DISTRICT OFFICE

1040 Main Street, Suite 101
Napa, CA 94559
Phone: (707) 226-9898
Fax: (707) 251-9800

*(Residents of Sonoma and Lake Counties
should contact the Napa district office)*

**HUMBOLDT DISTRICT
OFFICE**

317 3rd Street, Suite 1
Eureka, CA 95501
Phone: (707) 269-9595
Fax: (707) 269-9598

*(Residents of Del Norte County should
contact the Eureka district office)*

**MENDOCINO DISTRICT
OFFICE**

430 North Franklin Street
PO Box 2208
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Phone: (707) 962-0933
Fax: (707) 962-0934

YOLO DISTRICT OFFICE

712 Main Street, Suite 1
Woodland, CA 95695
Phone: (530) 662-5272
Fax: (530) 662-5163

Mike Thompson

M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD

Public Document Official Business

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Assistance and Resources Available

My staff is specifically trained to offer you assistance should you have problems or questions regarding any federal agencies and services, such as:

- Social Security and Medicare benefits
- Workers compensation and federal unemployment benefits
- Veterans claims and military service issues
- IRS and tax problems
- Postal Service complaints
- Environmental, Corps of Engineers, and wetlands issues
- Grants and economic development resources
- Small business assistance
- Immigration, naturalization, and visa issues

We can also help you apply for federal grants, and schedule tours of the Capitol Building and the White House. My staff can also help you order a flag flown over the Capitol, apply for an internship in my office, request a military service academy nomination, and learn about government resources available to you. Please contact any of my district offices, or go online to my website to learn more: <http://mikethompson.house.gov/services/index.shtml>



Congressman Thompson discusses sustainable forest management at the Redwood Forest Foundation's annual meeting.

**To stay abreast of federal action that affects you, sign up for Mike's electronic newsletter today. It's easy – and saves money and trees.
Visit <http://mikethompson.house.gov>**